

HOW IT HAS GROWN

England's Parcel Post and Its Amazing Success.

BEEN IN USE BUT TEN YEARS

What Was an Unknown Convenience Now an Almost Indispensable Adjunct of Daily Life.

The act authorizing the parcel post was passed in 1883. It may well be imagined that time was necessary to mount an entirely new postal service without disorganizing the ordinary mails, and it was not until August 1, 1884, that the post was actually placed at the disposal of the public, says the London Times.

May 1, 1886, a new scale of weights and charges was issued. The scale, which still remains unaltered, by single instead of double pounds, and thus represented a charge of 3d for the first pound and 1½d for each succeeding pound. At the same time the maximum weight was raised to eleven pounds, a parcel of that weight being carried for 18d. Compensation was promised for the loss or damage of any parcel in the post up to the sum of £1, while further sums of £5 and £10 might be secured by the payment of 1 penny and 3d respectively.

The original scale of weights and charges was for a parcel not exceeding one pound, 3d; up to three pounds, 5d; up to five pounds, 8d, and up to seven pounds, 1s. At seven pounds the post stopped. The maximum dimensions allowed were three and one-half feet in length and six feet in length and girth combined, and these dimensions have been found throughout to be sufficient to meet the public demand.

The effect of these changes at once became visible. From June, 1886, onwards, the number of parcels increased by more than twenty percent, over the number for the corresponding months of the previous year, and the total number of parcels carried in the year 1886 rose to 31,000,000. In the meantime parcel posts had been established with many colonies and foreign states. The admirably managed post office of India and the post office of Egypt (organized by the country) were the first to respond to the invitation of the postmaster general, and the interchange of parcels with India, Borneo, Aden and Egypt commenced July 1, 1887.

At the end of another six months Germany and Belgium, forerunners of this country in parcel post enterprise, had entered in similar relations, and from the commencement of 1886 the work of connecting this country with the rest of the world for the purpose of interchanging parcels by post proceeded apace.

The next change of importance took place June 1, 1891, when the system of registration was for the first time extended to inland parcels, together with compensation on a liberal scale. For the ordinary registration, a fee of 3d, compensation up to £5 was promised, while for every additional 1d another £5 could be secured up to a maximum of £25. At the same time the compensation payable on an unregistered parcel was raised from £1 to £5. Finally, December 1 last, a scale of payment, varying to £25 (which had previously been applied to the post to India and the West Indies) was adopted, and it is now possible to obtain compensation up to that amount by payment of the registration fee of 3d and additional fee of 9d, or 11d in all. It is not surprising that under the influence of these improvements the number of parcels sent per head of the population has more than doubled since the post was instituted.

So completely has the parcel post now become an adjunct of daily life that it is almost difficult to realize that ten years ago anyone wishing to send a parcel, even between two centers of population, had no certainty when it would be dispatched, when it would be delivered, and how much he would have to pay; while rural districts were, for such purposes, practically out of reach.

Medical Etiquette.
Mr. Ashurst, a medical man at Farnham, Lancashire, believing himself to have been treated by a brother practitioner named Anderson, at New Mills, in a manner contrary to professional etiquette, endeavored to relieve his feelings by dispatching to his rival a telegram in the words, "Your conduct is abominable, and I shall not fail to resent it." This was an attack that Mr. Anderson was not disposed to put up with, for telegrams are necessarily seen by more eyes than one, and a charge of "abominable conduct" is apt to set village tongues wagging. So he called on the libeller for an apology, and this satisfaction not being forthcoming he brought an action of libel, which was tried at Manchester.

The original quarrel was, it appeared, about a patient who, being dissatisfied with Mr. Ashurst, called in Mr. Anderson, who ought, it was alleged, to have notified the fact to his disinterested professor. But Mr. Justice Day declared that he had no sympathy with what he called "violating the right which doctors claim of a monopoly to kill," and he added, "I know doctors claim a right not to be interfered with, but the public have as much right to change their doctors as they have to change their bakers." For all that, the judge stigmatized the action as "a most trumpery one," and the jury, having found a verdict for the plaintiff, gave a farthing damages, left each party to pay his own costs.—London News.

Electrodes in Bottles.

Some additional evidence is reported in the foreign journals of the success of the method announced awhile ago for preserving steam boilers against pitting and general corrosion. This is accomplished by fixing electrodes in the boiler and sending periodically currents of electricity through them, under definite conditions, adjusted and controlled by automatic action. When the current is passing from the anodes suspended in the boiler to the shell, hydrogen is liberated on the shell and tubes, and oxygen on the anodes. Then, by means of the depolarizing apparatus, the action is changed, most of this hydrogen and oxygen recombining, with the result that, during the first period, the hydrogen performs two distinct functions—

first, it disintegrates mechanically, by its volume, the scale formed on the shell and tubes, and, second, some of the hydrogen combining chemically with the oxygen of the scale of iron on the shell and tubes, thus doing away with the oxidation of the boiler without wearing away the metal. The secondary action, in a word, is to facilitate the disintegration of the scale, hasten the mechanical action of the hydrogen in bursting it off and prevent polarization of the shell and tubes—oxidation, it is well known, not being able to take place in the presence of hydrogen gas.

A Clever Device.

The proprietor of a brewery began the construction of a new cellar at a late period of the year; but, to his great annoyance, very little progress was made with the excavations, notwithstanding the large number of workmen employed. All at once, however, a spirit of wild enthusiasm seemed to come over the men, and they now worked with unflagging industry from the first streak of dawn till late in the evening. When the ground had been excavated to a sufficient depth, they had almost to be prevented by main force from penetrating still deeper into the soil, and they departed with sadness from the scene of their activity.

The brewer rubbed his hands with delight. What was the solution of the riddle? He had placed in an old earthenware pot, corroded with salt, a strip of parchment, on which he had written the following words in an antiquated hand: "Moche money lyeth here below. Whosoever findeth yit maye hope yet." He then covered the vessel with a weather-proof piece of slate and buried it in a spot where the workmen would find it the next day.—Illustrated Sunstage-blatt.

Willie and Gertrude.

It was night.
The weather was bitter cold.
"Oh, Willie!" said little Gertrude, "What shall we do? We are so poor that we have no fuel with which to cook a porterhouse steak for our dear mamma."
"And it is of no use for us to try to borrow from the neighbors."
"No. There is nothing left to borrow."
"Where is the cat?" asked little Gertrude.

"Here," replied Willie.
"Put her up on the woodshed and twist her tail."
Willie did so.

In a short time the windows of the neighborhood opened, and bootjacks showered down. Gertrude gathered them up and said:
"There, Willie, put the kitty carefully away; we may need her again when those bootjacks are burned."

Was not Gertrude a wise little girl to profit so well by what she read in the comic papers?—Washington Star.

Human Hair Traffic.

Eight cars loaded with human hair arrived in Paris recently, consigned to dealers in that merchandise. The hair came from India and China, whence thousands of pounds are annually sent to England and France. This traffic, a foreign medical journal says, is the cause of the introduction of many diseases to Europe. The hair is cut from persons after death in China, and although it is disinfected upon arrival in France it often carries the germs of disease. Asiatic hair, owing in part to its coarseness, can be purchased cheaply, it selling often as low as a franc a kilogram. The hair of Europeans, however, averages about 100 francs for the same amount.—New York Tribune.

An Amazing Mistake.

"A man entered our store recently," said a bookkeeper the other day, "and made a rather amusing blunder. I was sitting behind my desk, writing, when an elderly, well-dressed man entered and asked to see Mr. Mallett.
"I told him there was nobody of that name in the store, but he did not seem satisfied, for he said: 'Why, that is strange. I was in here only two days ago and talked to him.' From the description he gave me I found that he meant one of our clerks, and I said: 'Oh, you mean Mr. Hammer, don't you?' 'Yes,' he said, 'I must have got the names hammer and mallet mixed up.'"
—Philadelphia Call.

Novel Real Estate Boom.

A curious boom in land was recently raised in Burnham by a cove native, relying on his fellow countrymen's superstition. He coated an old image of Buddha with luminous paint and set it up on his property, announcing far and wide the marvels of the shining image. Pilgrims flocked to the spot, were struck with wonder, a pagoda was built, houses sprang up, and the land owner made his fortune.—Exchange.

No Doubt About It.

"Why," asked the living skeleton of the freak, who sat beside him, "are you afraid of the man who tattooed you?"
"Because," responded the poor woman, with a shiver, "he certainly has designs on me."—Puck.

Very Religious.

Mrs. Brooks—Is she religious?
Mrs. Banks—I should say so. You know that dress her husband paid for out of his poker winnings? Well, she never wears it to church.—Brooklyn Life.

Ask for LILY WHITE FLOUR.

Closing Out Sale
OF Holiday Shipments and all kinds of footwear at Boyer's, 80 Canal street.

Do you use LILY WHITE FLOUR?

A Lady's Watch is About the Size

of a bottle of Smith's Bile Beans. They are dainty in form, unobtrusive for taste and their action makes them perfect as a means of relieving the bowels. "There is a grip in a barrel of them." They regulate the flow of bile, hence are efficacious alike in constipation and diarrhoea—in fact, in all derangements of the liver, stomach and bowels. A 3-cent bottle will often save a doctor bill if taken in time. Ask for the SMITH'S. Take no substitute for SMITH'S.

Bile Beans!



KNOWLEDGE

Brings comfort and improvement and tends to personal enjoyment, when rightly used. The many, who live better than others and enjoy life more, with less expenditure, by more promptly adapting the world's best products to the needs of physical being, will attest the value to health of the pure liquid laxative principles embraced in the remedy, Syrup of Figs.

Its excellence is due to its presenting in the form most acceptable and pleasant to the taste, the refreshing and truly beneficial properties of a perfect laxative; effectually cleansing the system, dispelling colds, headaches and fevers and permanently curing constipation. It has given satisfaction to millions and met with the approval of the medical profession, because it acts on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels without weakening them and it is perfectly free from every objectionable substance.
Syrup of Figs is for sale by all druggists in 50c and \$1 bottles, but it is manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only, whose name is printed on every package, also the name, Syrup of Figs, and being well informed, you will not accept any substitute if offered.



DO YOU KNOW

Good Rubbers When You See Them?

We are headquarters for the Celebrated Cuddee Rubber Footwear, which is acknowledged the best, and our price is the lowest, quality considered. The best in the cheapest. Call and see what we have. Now is a good time to buy that Mackintosh. Our stock was never better. All kinds of Rubber Goods, Mill Supplies and Sporting Goods. Grand Rapids Rubber Store.

STUDLEY & BARCLAY

No. 4 Monroe Street, Grand Rapids.
P. B.—We carry Steam Pipe Covering of all kinds in stock.

PECK'S HEADACHE POWDERS

May now be obtained from any druggist. Price, 25c for ten doses. They are put up in convenient form and are guaranteed to cure.

ARE WARRANTED TO CURE HEADACHE.

Ask any druggist of what makes of headache powder he sells the most, and he will say, "Peck's." No stronger proof of their superior merits can be given. Besides, every dealer is authorized to refund the money if the customer is disappointed.

PRICE 25c.

Three Doses for 10c.

PECK BROTHERS.

DRUNKENNESS

On the Edge of Habit, Positively Cured by administering Dr. Mallett's Golden Specific.

It can be given in a cup of coffee or tea, or in food, without the knowledge of the patient. It is especially harmless, and will induce a permanent and speedy cure, whether the patient is a moderate drinker or an absolute wreck. It has been given in thousands of cases, and in every instance a perfect cure has followed. In New York, the temperance cause has followed the Golden Specific, it has become an utter impossibility for the liquor appetite to exist.

GOLDEN SPECIFIC CO., Prop'rs, Cincinnati, O. 64-page book of particulars free. To be had of For Sale by Peck Bros.

DR. M. W. DANFORTH

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.
Office and residence No. 17 Henry street. Office hours before 10 a. m. and after 2 p. m. Telephone 574. Physician at Cascade Springs for twenty-four years.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

We take pleasure in announcing to you the opening of our Hair Dressing and Manicure Parlors. Rooms 11 and 12, "The Gilbert." The services of Miss Mary Mackay, a competent and experienced hair dresser, have been secured. Miss Myrtle A. Marsh will have charge of the Manicure Parlors. We invite you to call.
MRS. L. J. MARSH & CO.

I wish to call your attention to the fact that I am prepared to furnish Pure California Wines (vintage of 1890) at the following prices:

GUARANTEED PURE CALIFORNIA WINES

PRICE LIST:

	Single Bottles	Case 12 Quarts Bottles	Single Quart Bottles	40c Per Qt. Bottle.
Chard	\$1.00	\$10.00	40c	
Burgundy	1.25	12.50	40c	
Hock	1.00	10.00	40c	
Port	1.25	12.50	40c	
Sherry	1.25	12.50	40c	
Muscat	1.25	12.50	40c	
Blackberry	1.25	12.50	40c	

GET A 190 SAMPLE SIZE FOR TRIAL.

These wines are carefully selected and sent direct from the vineyards in California, and for medicinal purposes I highly recommend them. Try one first, long and short (the quart bottle). The preparation is one of the best tonic made.

PAUL V. FINCH, VALLEY CITY PHARMACY, 35 CANAL STREET.

RECEIVER'S SALE!
THE PLANT AND STOCK OF
Nelson, Matter & Co.
FURNITURE MANUFACTURERS, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN.
Will be sold under an order of the United States Circuit Court for the Western District of Michigan,
AT PUBLIC AUCTION ON JAN. 4, 1894,
At 10 o'clock a. m. at the retail stores, 33, 35, 37 and 39 Canal street, Grand Rapids.

The order of the court directs that bids be received for the entire plant and stock (with the exception of the Kent street lumber yard) as one parcel, and also for each of the five parcels into which the property is divided, as follows:

PARCEL ONE—The Lyon street factory, the Lyon street Block or warehouse, including the real estate, buildings, photograph gallery and all machinery and fixtures in the buildings.
PARCEL TWO—The furniture manufactured and in process of manufacture and materials therefor, constituting the

wholesale stock of Nelson, Matter & Co., also store and office furniture and fixtures, horses, wagons, sleighs, tools and all other personal property belonging to the estate not included in the retail department.

PARCEL THREE—The real estate comprising the West Side Lumber Yard, so-called.

PARCEL FOUR—The lumber belonging to said estate.

PARCEL FIVE—The real estate comprising the Old, or Kent Street Lumber yard, so-called.

THE MICHIGAN TRUST CO., RECEIVER, G'D RAPIDS.

GET READY FOR INVENTORY

Were the orders received from headquarters. But we find we have more stock than we like to have, and must sell, no matter what the loss is. First loss is the best, so

Your Price Is Our Price

This means that you can buy Ladies', Misses', Children's and Infants' Cloaks, Tea Gowns, Wrappers, Waists, Skirts, Mackintoshes, Millinery, etc., at prices to suit yourself and pocket book, for we must sell before we start taking inventory, and if

PRICES

Will have any effect we do not expect to inventory much. Buy now if you want to own any of above articles at one-third their real value.

SIEGEL'S

50 AND 52 MONROE ST.

WATER! WATER! WATER!

HYDRANTS, HOSE, SPRINKLERS, ETC.

SEWER CONNECTIONS! Avoid the danger of sickness and have this work done at once. We can do it for you reasonable and with promptness. Give us your orders.

Sproul & McGurrin, 154 East Fulton Street. Phone 147.

GREAT ONE DAY SALE

FRIDAY, DEC. 29,

AT

EHRMAN'S SHOE HOUSE

69 CANAL STREET.

K. Marshall & Sons of Boston, wholesale shoe dealers, send us the following goods to be sold at once in order to realize the cash money. We have set Friday as a great money saving day. The goods herein mentioned are all fresh and clean and made up expressly for fine city trade. Whether you need shoes or not be sure and attend this sale. Remember these prices are for one day only, Friday, Dec. 29th.

READ! READ! READ!

Lot 1. 300 pairs of Boys' Button Shoes from Marshall & Son's own make, all sizes, we will sell for 72c, regular price \$1.50.

Lot 2. 279 pairs of Ladies' Oxford Ties with patent leather tips, all sizes, we will sell for 56c, regular price \$1.50.

Lot 3. 406 pairs of Ladies' Fine Dress Button Shoes, with patent leather tips, hand turned, Marshall & Son's make, we will offer for \$1.46, regular \$3.00 shoes, all styles and sizes.

Lot 4. 300 pairs of Misses' Rubbers will be offered for 13c regular 40c rubbers.

Lot 5. 182 pairs of Ladies' French Dongola Kid Button and Lace Shoes, hand turned, all styles, we will offer for \$2.00 every pair worth just \$3.00 a pair.

Lot 6. 65 sample pairs of Men's Shoes, button, lace and congress, not a pair among them worth less than \$4 to \$5 a pair, we will close them out one pair to each customer for \$1.90 a pair.

REMEMBER FOR ONE DAY ONLY.

EHRMAN'S SHOE HOUSE

69 CANAL STREET.

P. S.—Every shoe sold on this day warranted or money refunded.

The Cosmopolitan One Year.

A HIGH-CLASS illustrated monthly magazine in the home is no longer a luxury. It is a necessity, and to meet the demands created by this necessity, The Cosmopolitan Magazine, giving yearly, as it does, 1200 pages of reading by the latest living authors, with over 1200 illustrations by clever artists, has stepped into the breach, with a reduction in its price that has startled the literary world.

THE publishers of THE HERALD, fully alive to the needs of its patrons, have made special arrangements with this superb monthly, whereby it will receive orders for—

THE COSMOPOLITAN, One Year BOTH FOR THE HERALD, Three Months \$2.50.

The Herald Three Months

SEND ORDERS TO
GRAND RAPIDS HERALD,
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.
OR CALL AT OFFICE IF CONVENIENT.